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Reflection

When I was in high school I always knew that I had an unlimited amount of opportunities ahead of me. I knew from the moment I entered 9th grade that I was preparing myself for a 4 year college. I knew that the future entailed whatever I set my mind too. My high school was located in a suburban middle class town located in southeastern Connecticut. The school received a makeover sometime in the early 2000’s which included a new library, new classrooms, new bathrooms and a second gym. All the classrooms had projectors, many of the classrooms had smart boards, textbooks were supplied to each student, and calculators were supplied in math classes. Science classes had proper equipment, art classes had unlimited amounts of clay, paper, paintbrushes, and more. The library was equipped with thousands of books and many computers that students could use whenever they pleased. There was a career center, computer labs with brand new Mac computers; we even had a credit union inside the school. Music classes were equipped with guitars, pianos, and other instruments. Each class had about 20 kids enrolled in them and teachers were always present, engaged, and committed to the students and their job. Guidance counselors, school psychologists, and social workers were available and willing to help whenever needed. As you can see, school was a place to grow and learn. I was in a safe and positive environment that allowed me to expand my education in multiply ways. This is a stark difference from the students in *Savage Inequalities* who are given textbooks from the Nixon era, that is, if they are even given textbooks at all. These students show up to school to teachers that aren’t qualified to do their job. In chapter 2 we saw that some teachers don’t even show up to class at all. Science classes don’t have beakers, water, or Bunsen burners. Those are things that we take advantage of in schools like mine. Students in East St. Louis and in the slums of Illinois go to schools with bathrooms that resemble those of a jail and they certainly don’t have smart boards, let alone computers. The resources that we have at Stonington High School and many other schools in America are things that are unheard of for the students in *Savage Inequalities* and it is sad to think that many students go to school without the opportunities that I had. These students go into high school with the mindset of failure, when they should be going into high school with the mindset of college and opportunity just like I did.